

Message Text

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ORIGIN OPIC-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS STATE 105848

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN

SUBJECT: HOSPITAL SHARED SERVICES (HSS)

1. OPIC IS REVIEWING PROPOSAL FOR SUBJECT JOINT VENTURE
HOSPITAL SERVICES PROJECT (INITIALLY LAUNDRY) IN AFULA,
BETWEEN A U.S. INVESTOR GROUP HEADED BY GEORGE SCHECTER OF
LOS ANGELES AND ISRAEL HEALTH ORGANIZATION KUPAT HOLIM.

2. PROJECT REPRESENTS A SUBSTANTIAL DEVIATION FROM STRUC-
TURE AND TYPE OPIC NORMALLY CONSIDERS. FOR EXAMPLE: LIMITED
TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY, LIMITED DEVELOPMENT BENEFITS,
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POSSIBLE NET FOREIGN EXCHANGE DRAIN ON ISRAEL, MOST U.S.
PROCUREMENT ALREADY COVERED BY EXIM LOAN, LOCAL PARTNER
APPARENTLY WEAK FINANCIALLY, VERY LIMITED RISK BY U.S.

SPONSOR, AND PROJECT ONLY HAS STATUS AS APPROVED INVESTMENT
AS OPPOSED TO APPROVED ENTERPRISE.

3. SCHECTER CONFIRMED OPIC KNOWLEDGE THAT GOI INVESTMENT
AUTHORITY IS ANXIOUS FOR OPIC TO MAKE ITS FIRST LOAN IN
ISRAEL. THIS IS ALSO A PRIORITY AREA FOR OPIC WHICH HAS
SPENT CONSIDERABLE TIME OVER LAST 20 MONTHS REVIEWING A
VARIETY OF PROPOSALS, NONE OF WHICH MET OPIC CRITERIA. HOW-
EVER, IT IS NOT INTENDED TO MAKE A LOAN IN ISRAEL SOLELY
FOR THE SAKE OF MAKING A LOAN.

4. OPIC SEES ITS ROLE IN ISRAEL, GIVEN LIMITED WORLDWIDE
RESOURCES, AS MAKING LOANS OR GUARANTIES TO PROJECTS WHICH
HAVE A SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT IMPACT, AND AT LEAST THE
STATUS OF AN APPROVED ENTERPRISE IN ISRAEL.

5. WOULD APPRECIATE EARLY EMBASSY COMMENTS ON MERITS OF
HSS/SCHECTER PROPOSAL WHICH OPIC SHOULD CONSIDER.

6. NEW SUBJECT: FYI: MR. WENDELL ANDERSON, A.I.D.
ENGINEER, WILL BE VISITING ELECTROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIES,
FACILITIES AT ACCO AT OPIC'S REQUEST FOLLOWING OTHER TDY IN
ISRAEL. OPIC IS PRESENTLY REVIEWING A PROPOSAL FOR
EXPANSION OF COMPANY'S FACILITIES. SISCO

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